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JPRS-TEP-85-005

6 March 1985

Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

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6 March 1985

WORLDWIDE REPORT
EPIDEMIOLOGY

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BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

NASSRATPUR DIARRHEA OUTBREAK--Nasaratpur (Bogra) Dec. 19:--Diarrhoea has broken out at least in three Upazillas of Bogra and 19 persons have died only in Adamdighi Upazila. Thousands of persons have been suffering from this disease and the number of death has been increasing for the last some days. It is spreading over new areas. The condition of the effected patients is worsening for want of necessary medicines. The patients are not getting medicines and proper care. The patients of these Upazila Health Complexes gradually losing faith in them. The guardians of the patients have to supply medicines from outside. Both quality and quantity of diet supplied to the patients are bad. In Adamdighi Upazila Health Complex patients have to purchase Kerosine oil for light at night. Bed sheets of one patient is being given to another patient without proper washing. According to local medical practitioners Diarrhoea will spread all over the district and will take serious epidemic form if it cannot be checked at this stage immediately.
[Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 13 Dec 84 p 8]

CORRESPONDENT REPORTS CHOLERA, DYSENTERY DEATHS--Dinajpur, Dec 13: As many as 13 persons died of cholera at Kamalpur union under Sadar upazila during the last fortnight. It is learnt that cholera broke out in epidemic form at Kamalpur, South Maheshpur Baragram and Aihai villages of the affected union. The Health Department has allegedly not extending substantial medical assistance as only one health worker deputed in the cholera affected can hardly cope with the exigency. Among those who died were Haji Jonab Ali, Saifuddin, Safdar Ali and Zafar Ali of respective villages. Our Rangpur Correspondent adds: Bacillary dysentery is reported to have broken out in an epidemic form already claiming six lives in Kamarpukur union under Saidpur upazila. It is learnt that six persons were attacked with acute blood dysentery and died within days of attack. Most of the victims of this disease are reportedly children. Our Sailkupa Correspondent adds: Four persons including three girls, died of bacillary dysentery in village Ahsan Nagar under Silkupa upazila during the last 10 days, it is learnt. Two of the deceased--Zinat and Angur were brother and sister. The other two were named Firoza and Farida. The disease has now assumed by an epidemic form and another 35 persons have reportedly been attacked with bacillary dysentery.
[Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 15 Dec 84 p 2]

AUSTARGRAM DIARRHEA CASES--Kishoregonj, Dec. 17:--Nine persons including four children died of diarrhoea in a village under Austagram Upazila during the last two weeks. About 50 others were suffering from the disease in the village. The victims are, Jaitun (30), Tajul Islam (10) Asmat (45) Rafique (8), Kulsum (6), Karbular Ma (40) Abu Taher (36) Abdul Hamid (5) and Mati Miah (60). It is alleged that, no medical officer had visited the village after the break-out of the disease. Meanwhile, a negligible quantity of oral saline had been distributed among some patients by some health assistants. [Excerpt] [Dhaka BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 19 Dec 84 p 9]

CHOLERA IN KISHOREGANJ--Kishoreganj, Dec 24: Cholera and diarrhoea took a toll of 9 lives at Islampur under Austagram upazila in the last two weeks. It is reported that the disease broke out on a large scale in the last week of November and 43 persons out of a total of about 1500 inhabitants of the village were attacked in the following two weeks. Of them Abu Taher 36, Asmat 45, Rafiq 8, Karbular Maa 40, Kulsum 6, Hamid 5, Mati Mia 60, Tajul 10, and Joytun 30 died of the diseases during the period. Four members of one family were attacked and two of them died. Though the diseases have been stalking the village with full fury, only some vaccines and salines have so far been distributed among the people by some local employees of the health department and no doctor has as yet visited the village, it is alleged. It is learnt that there is no tubewell in the village and the two at the neighbouring village Ikardia have also been lying out of order. One has to go either to Shibla or Austagram across the river in order to collect tubewell water. This means a walk of about three miles and a half. Speedy measures to ensure regular supply of pure drinking water for the village have been urged. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 25 Dec 84 p 2]

SYLHET CHOLERA DEATHS--Sylhet, Dec. 25:--Over 20 persons have died of cholera which broke out in [name indistinct] Upazila. The Upazila administration confirming 11 deaths stated that adequate measures including inoculation and treatment of disease have been taken to combat the scourge. The worst affected areas are: Borong, Nayabobd, Teligaon, Banagaon Kolagaon and Charagaon of Sreepur union. Twenty-five more persons in the nation are suffering from the disease. Scarcity of drinking water in the areas is contributing to spread of the disease according to Health Officials. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Dec 84 p 7]

NILPHAMARI DYSENTERY CASES--Kurigram, Dec. 24:--Dysentery and diarrhoea have broken out in an epidemic form in different areas of Rajarhat Upazila. Paucity of pure drinking water and use of adulterated foodstuff are said to be the main reasons for the sudden outbreak of the diseases. Acute scarcity of curative and preventive medicines in the Upazila has aggravated the situation. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 26 Dec 84 p 7]

MANIKGANG DIARRHEA DEATHS--Manikganj Dec 31: Six persons died of diarrhoea and 450 others have been attacked with the disease during the last one month in the seven upazilas of Manikganj district. When contacted, the upazila health authority confirmed the death and said that necessary measures have been taken in the affected areas. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 26 Dec 84 p 2]

MORE DIARRHEA DEATHS--Chapainawabganj, Dec 30: Diarrhoea has broken out at Bohipara village of Parbattipur Union Parishad under Gomastapur upazila of Chapainawabganj district. The disease has claimed 12 lives and 20 new patients were hospitalised. The situation is alarming. The disease has spread further and affected new areas of the upazila. It may be mentioned here that a good number of poor patients suffering from diarrhoea attend Gomastapur health complex from far flung areas everyday but they are returning to their house allegedly without treatment due to acute scarcity of necessary medicines. The people of the upazila urged the Government to take necessary steps to combat the disease immediately. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH TIMES in English 31 Dec 84 p 2]

CSO: 5450/0072

BARBADOS

PROFILE OF NEW NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE DIRECTOR

Bridgetown BARBADOS ADVOCATE in English 8 Jan 85 p 1

[Text]

Dr. Frank C. Ramsey has been appointed as the first Director of the National Health Service (NHS).

His appointment which took effect from last November 1 was announced yesterday by the NHS Board.

From 1979 to 1984 Dr. Ramsey was involved in the planning of the NHS. As Director, he is now responsible for managing the administrative affairs of the General Practice Services of the National Health Service.

Dr. Ramsey was educated at Harrison College before entering King's College Hospital, London University where, as a Colonial Development and Welfare Scholar, he was awarded in 1952, the MB.BS Degrees as well as the LRCP, MRCS diplomas.

After gaining clinical experience at King's College Hospital, the University College Hospital of the West Indies, and the Barbados General Hospital, he spent five years in general practice in Barbados before returning to the United Kingdom, where, as a Commonwealth Scholar in 1963, he successfully completed the Diploma in Child Health and the Membership of the Royal College of Physicians (Glasg.).

His postgraduate experience was further strengthened by clinical posts at Hammersmith Hospital, and the University Hospital of the West Indies before he returned to Barbados in 1965 to serve as Consultant Paediatrician to the Queen Elizabeth Hospital.

He was instrumental in implementing an outreach community paediatric programme which was successful in reducing the incidence of malnutrition in Barbados. Afterwards he received a Pan-American Health Organisation (PAHO) Fellowship to Harvard School of Public Health where he was awarded a Master's degree in Public Health (MPH) in 1972. On his return to Barbados he was appointed Director of the National Nutrition Centre.

Dr. Ramsey has also been involved in Child Care — as Chairman of the Child Care Board, 1976-81, teaching, research and administration. He was Associate Lecturer in Paediatrics (1967), Senior Lecturer, Social and Preventive Paediatrics (1972) and was appointed Associate Dean, Faculty of Medicine (Barbados) from 1973-76. He has written a book entitled "Protein-Energy Malnutrition in Barbados."

and authored or co-authored many research publications.

He has served on many international committees including the World Health Organisation (WHO) Expert Committee on Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme, Geneva; and the United Nations University Advisory Committee Meeting on World Hunger, Tokyo. He is presently Chairman of the Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting for the Caribbean Food and Nutrition Institute.

CSO: 5440/034

INDIA

BRIEFS

MENINGITIS IN CALCUTTA--Jan. 12: Twenty-three persons suffering from pyogenic meningitis were admitted to the Marwari Relief hospital in north Calcutta this year. The manager of the hospital, Mr M. Sharma, said six patients, including two women, had died of the disease. Two patients were admitted to the hospital on Thursday. Expressing fears that the disease had reached "epidemic proportions," a senior doctor of the hospital said 30 cases had been reported at the hospital last month of which four proved fatal. The treatment of the disease was not expensive, the doctor said. But the patients usually ignored the initial symptoms of headaches which led to the worsening of the condition. [Calcutta THE TELEGRAPH in English 13 Jan 85 p 2]

CSO: 5450/0077

KENYA

BRIEFS

AIDS CASE IDENTIFIED--A case of Kaposi's Sarcoma, one of the commonest complications of AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) has been identified at Kakamega Provincial General Hospital. According to the hospital's acting medical superintendent, Dr Augustine Munjiri, this is the fourth such case to be reported at the hospital in the past three years. Dr Munjiri said that a case of the dreaded disease had been diagnosed and "treated" at the hospital on Wednesday. Kaposi's sarcoma is a cancer which affects the skin on the legs and arms of the victim and is endemic in the same geographical regions in which the incidence of AIDS is highest. In Africa it is most common in the Central African region where specialists believe AIDS originated. The presence of the disease in Kakamega has raised fears that AIDS might soon hit the town. [Excerpt] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 18 Jan 85 p 3]

CSO: 5400/75

MALAYSIA

BRIEFS

SABAH CHOLERA CASES--Another 10 cases of cholera have been reported in three districts in Sabah, bringing the total number to 26 this year. According to a statement issued by the acting deputy director of state medical and health services on 5 February, out of the 10 cases, 7 have been reported in Sandakan, 2 in Kota Kinabalu, and 1 in Kudat. Eight persons who are carriers of the disease have also been traced: seven in Sandakan and one in Kota Kinabalu.
[Summary] [Kuala Lumpur Domestic Service in Malay 1230 GMT 5 Feb 85 BK]

CSO: 5400/4345

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

TSETSE COVERS WIDE AREA--Prof Ajibota Taylor, a senior research officer at the International Service for Research, the Hague, Netherlands, said in Lagos on Saturday that about seven and a half million kilometres of Africa was infested with tsetse fly which transmits trypanosomiasis (sleeping sickness) to man and animals. In a lecture titled "The philosophy and science of pest management," delivered at the quarterly meeting of the Nigerian Academy of Science, Prof Taylor said that the "similium species" also transmitted a deadly disease called onchocerciasis in many less developed countries. He said that pests had threatened the basic requirement of food and environmental quality in those countries, adding that the struggle between man and pests would continue as long as there was competition over food, shelter and territorial imperative. He said that because of the traditional tendency in man to feel superior to other lowly organisms, man had tended to control pests through "eradication and suppression rather than their effective management." Prof Taylor said that the eventual discovery of "miracle insecticides" like DDT and HCH constituted a watershed in the constant struggle of man against the teeming world of insects and pests. He said that in spite of the seriousness of the recent leakage from an insecticide plant which killed 2,500 people in Bhopal, India, "insecticides are destined to continue to play a significant role in present and future integrated pest management strategies."

[Text] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 14 Jan 85 p 12]

EPIDEMIC HITS IKOYI PRISONS--Skin diseases epidemic rages at Ikoyi Prisons, Lagos. Many of the suspects and convicts there are suffering from one form of skin disease or the other. This was revealed at the Port Harcourt zone of the Exchange Control (Anti-Sabotage) Tribunal in Lagos yesterday by a defence counsel, Mr Kakeem Giwa. Mr Giwa was pleading with the tribunal chairman, Mr Justice Gregory Okoro-Idogu not to order his client, one Morey Janney to be detained at the Ikoyi Prisons. He said: "Please don't send my client to Ikoyi prisons. I have been made to know that an epidemic has broken out among the inmates and this has been confirmed by the prosecuting counsel, Mr A. Aliyu and the police superintendent in charge." Mr Giwa said that he heard also that if affected inmates were sent out of the Ikoyi Prisons to somewhere else, they get better quickly. [Excerpt] [Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 19 Dec 84 p 2]

RABIES OUTBREAK IN KADUNA--Four people, two cows and a sheep have been affected in the outbreak of rabies in the Kaduna metropolis, the Divisional Veterinary Officer, Dr Leo Nyam, said in Kaduna. He told the NEWS AGENCY OF NIGERIA (NAN) that the outbreak was first notice at the Barnawa part of the town on January 4, but that it had spread to Tudun Wada by last week. Dr Nyam attributed the outbreak to failure by the dog owners to take them to the veterinary clinic for vaccination against the disease. He said that 15 dogs had been admitted and that three had died so far. The chief veterinary officer, Dr S.N. Sani, said that there had been no reported outbreak in other parts of the state. [Text] [Enugu DAILY STAR in English 25 Jan 85 p 1]

CSO: 5400/47

PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

FILARIASIS IN SHANDONG ERADICATED

Beijing ZHONGHUA YUFANG YIXUE ZAZHI [CHINESE JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE MEDICINE]
in Chinese No 5, 25 Sep 84 pp 260-263

[Article by Zhong Chonghu [0112 1504 4375], Shandong Institute of Parasitic Diseases, Jining, Shandong: "Eradication of Filariasis in Shandong Province"]

[Summary] Bancroftian filariasis was heavily endemic in Shandong Province. An epidemiological survey in 1951 revealed that the microfilaria were nocturnal in periodicity, and mass surveys had to be carried out at night. The large single tract in the southern part of the province with a population of 10 million had a microfilaria infection rate of 21.6-30.6 percent and a disease prevalence rate of 28.1 percent. Municipalities of 74 counties were found to be endemic by blood examination, and it was estimated that there were about 5 million cases of filarial infection in the whole province.

Culex pipiens pallens was found to be the chief vector of W. bancrofti in Shandong. Entomological investigations showed that the natural infection rate was 43.7-51.2 percent and the infectivity rate was 31.8-36.3 percent.

The classical control measures, such as selective treatment, mass drug administration and DEC medicated salt, were instituted for filariasis control and repeated reexaminations, including sample checks and rechecks, showed that the microfilaria rate of all the counties had been reduced to below 1 percent. In October 1983, the Ministry of Public Health of the PRC organized a reexamination unit to assess the results of control measures. Six counties were selected, and 52,898 people were reexamined. Of these, six people, or 0.06-0.1 percent, were found to be positive for microfilaria. It was affirmed that most of the old foci of filariasis had become free from infection, and it can be claimed that filariasis has basically been eradicated from Shandong Province.

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CSO: 5400/4120

TANZANIA

BRIEFS

CHOLERA DEATHS, DYSENTERY OUTBREAK--Lindi--A total of 79 people died of cholera and dysentery in Lindi Region between December last year and January this year. The Lindi regional chief medical officer of health, Dr. Samuel Mgeni, said today that cholera killed 54 people in Lindi District between 12 December and 28 January while 18 people died in Kilwa District during the same period. Dr Mgeni explained that Lindi Hospital had opened two centers in Lindi rural district and one in Kilwa District [words indistinct] cholera. He added that a dysentery outbreak in the region was still a threat, and that so far about 40 patients had been hospitalized suffering from the disease, which has spread throughout all the districts of the region. [Text] [Dar es Salaam Domestic Service in Swahili 1900 GMT 29 Jan 85 EA]

CSO: 5400/73

THAILAND

DRUG-RESISTANT VD REPORTED

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 8 Sep 84 p 2

[Article: "Drug-Resistant VD, Now almost 30 Strains of VD"]

[Text] Doctors are very alarmed about drug-resistant VD that is difficult to treat. Bangkok has the greatest number of people with gonorrhea.

"In the past, only a few types of VD were found in Thailand. But now there are 25-26 strains. The reason is that people are traveling more and diseases have become drug resistant. Also, there is promiscuity among homosexuals, and 5 to 10 percent of these people have VD. This leads to cirrhosis of the liver and cancer and finally death," said Dr Phairat Disutchit at a debate sponsored by the Preventive Medicine Association of Thailand that was held at the Faculty of Medicine at Chulalongkorn University.

Dr Phairat said that in the past, penicillin could be used to treat these people. But now, this drug is effective in only 60 percent of the cases here. In other countries, it is effective in 95 percent of the cases. This shows that venereal diseases have become highly drug resistant. This is very alarming.

Another speaker, Dr Anuphong Chitwarakon, who works at the Bangrak Hospital, said that the most recent study on gonorrhea conducted in 1983-1984 showed that Bangkok had the highest incidence of this disease. This was followed by those places that have tourist attractions such as Chiang Mai and Phataya. The province with the lowest incidence was Ratchaburi. The number of cases in Hat Yai and along the southern border has increased.

Dr Anuwat Limsuwan from the Rama Thibodi Hospital spoke about AIDS, which is now causing great alarm. He said that this disease does not pose as great a danger to older people as it does to people 20-30 years old.

"In the United States, of the 2,000 people who have contracted AIDS, 700-800 have died. The disease is most prevalent among homosexuals, that is, 71 percent of 131 patients. At present, all countries are urgently trying to find a drug that will cure this disease," said Dr Anuwat.

11943
CSO: 5400/4339

THAILAND

NEW VD STRAIN DISCOVERY REPORTED

Bangkok NAEON in Thai 18 Sep 84 pp 1, 11

[Article: "Researchers Discover New Disease"]

[Text] Thai doctors have gained worldwide attention. They have discovered a new disease that is caused by having oral sexual relations.

Dr Nathon Thammabut of the Department of Microbiology and Dr Phirom Kamonrattanakun of the Department of Preventive and Social Medicine, Faculty of Medicine, Chulalongkorn University, did research on diseases that arise from having sexual relations. They discovered a new disease in men that is caused by having oral sexual relations. This is the first time that this disease has been found in the world. This disease is caused by a strain of bacteria that has never been seen before.

The researchers found that this disease, which occurs when women perform oral sex acts on men, is caused by a strain of bacteria called *B. Melaninogenicus*, which is found in the urinary tract of men who have gonorrhea. This bacteria is not found in healthy men. In order to grow and develop, this bacteria requires "naphthaquinon," which is normally present in the mouths of healthy people. Besides this, the bacteria destroys the red blood cells to the point where the blood "turns black."

As for how people come down with this disease, the doctors pointed out that it comes from performing oral sex acts so roughly that the genitals are injured. That is, the sexual partner bites the man's penis so hard that blood flows. The bacteria is then transmitted from the mouth to the urinary tract. Within 48 hours, urination will become painful, and there will be a clear pus. What is alarming is that this causes dark spots or lines to appear on the person's underwear. The person must see a doctor.

The discovery of this bacteria means that the cause of a new disease resulting from oral sexual relations has been found. As for treating this disease, penicillin type drugs are not very effective. Thus, it is up to VD specialists to decide on the best form of treatment in each case.

11943

CSO: 5400/4339

THAILAND

BRIEFS

VD STATISTICS--More Thai males than females have venereal disease. More than 300,000 people have VD. This is a very alarming problem. People should go to a doctor for treatment rather than treating themselves. Dr Amnuai Krasupha, the director of the Division of Venereal Diseases, Communicable Disease Control Department, said that the VD problem in Thailand is still very worrisome. Of the 800,000 people who went to the state public health clinics for medical treatment, more than 300,000 had VD. Another 100,000 had various sexual disorders. This does not include those who were treated at private clinics and hospitals. If these are included, the number of people with VD or sexual disorders would be even higher. Dr Amnuai said that true gonorrhea is the most common type of VD. Almost 200,000 people have this disease. About 70,000 have artificial gonorrhea. Others have chancroid, syphilis and other sexual disorders. "Another interesting fact is that twice as many males as females have VD. Approximately 84 percent of those with VD are between 15 and 29 years of age," said Dr Amnuai. He added that those who think that they might have VD or a sexual disorder should not treat themselves. The disease may not be cured completely and may become drug resistant. They should go to a doctor and avoid having sex with anyone suspected of having VD. An important preventive measure is to use a condom. [Text] [Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 10 Dec 84 p 2] 11943

DISEASED SQUID--Mr Somphon Kiettiphaibun, the deputy director-general of the Department of Foreign Trade, said that he has received a report from Italy stating that Salmonella bacteria have been found in eight containers of frozen squid imported from Thailand. This bacteria is caused by poor sanitation at the plants and from the use of dirty water. This bacteria is not as virulent as a biotoxin. Heat will kill it. The Department of Foreign Trade, the Department of Fisheries and the Aquatic Products Trade Association will send representatives to Italy to discuss and investigate this. Italy has been asked to prohibit the import of only those containers of squid found to be affected. Those not found to have the bacteria should be allowed into the country. To date, Italy has not prohibited the import of any frozen squid from Thailand. [Text] [Bangkok BAN MUANG in Thai 29 Nov 84 p 2] 11943

CSO: 5400/4339

ZIMBABWE

FIRST PHASE OF ANTI-TUBERCULOSIS CAMPAIGN IN HARARE

Harare THE HERALD in English 18 Jan 85 p 3

[Text]

THE first phase of the anti-tuberculosis campaign in Harare's primary schools being carried out by the city health department has been completed with 6 400 pupils vaccinated.

The chief health visitor, Mrs Hilary Spencer, told The Herald yesterday that community nursing staff in the department had attended to 10 766 pupils last term. The first phase was directed at Grade 7 pupils only.

Staff from the CHD were visiting primary schools in the city, testing the pupils to find whether they had been in contact with the disease, whether they had been immunised before and whether they had enough immunity to fight tuberculosis. A total of 102 schools were visited.

Mrs Spencer said the 6 400 children who had been given a BCG -- vaccine against tuberculosis -- showed there was great need for immunisation among the city's schoolchildren.

Besides those who were immunised another 600 pupils were sent to the Beatrice Road medical examination centre since the community nursing staff were not happy with the results of the

tests.

"We would like to thank the community for the magnificent response in this endeavour to bring the health services to the people," she said.

The CHD would be launching the second phase by revisiting the primary schools, this time attending to both Grade 7s and Grade 1s.

Grade 1s would only be vaccinated if they had not been immunised and it was expected that parents would co-operate by saying whether their children had already been vaccinated.

"With the Grade 7s we will once again carry out the screening test and the parents' permission will be sought. If there are other children in the middle classes who will have not been vaccinated we will just advise the parents to send them to a clinic," said Mrs Spencer.

Tuberculosis was a highly contagious disease but it could be prevented by vaccination.

Last year the city Medical Officer of Health, Dr Lovemore Mbengeranwa, said tuberculosis was now the single biggest cause of death in Harare's hospitals. There were 448 tuberculosis cases in the city last year.

CSO: 5400/70

INTER-AFRICAN AFFAIRS

PAN-AFRICAN ERADICATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST RINDERPEST

Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 6 Dec 85 p 5

[Article by Dr S.A. Garba]

[Text] Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia (CBPP) is an endemic disease restricted to tropical Africa. In the past efforts have been made to organize one form of eradication campaign or the other, in various countries in Africa.

Before the agreement to establish a Joint Campaign by the FAO and OAU in 1969, called Joint Project 28 (JP 28), against the disease, individual countries of Africa organized their own eradication campaigns. The success of such campaigns depended on the availability of funds, required expertise and the effective control of movement of animals.

Measures

In Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania the measures used included quarantine and control of animal movement, vaccination and field testing to detect "lungers" or chronic carriers. Contagious bovine pleuropneumonia was encountered under a great variety of circumstances, as massive epizootics, both large and small sporadic outbreaks in enzootic areas and spread of infection into previously free areas. Ethiopia, Somalia, Chad Republic, Mali, Angola, Senegal and Nigeria had their own financial problems to control the disease. The slaughter and compensation policy was expensive and not many countries were prepared for it. Therefore, the JP 28 was an attempt to bring together the efforts of most African countries and to maintain a common line of action against CBPP.

Nigeria took active part in the sixties by undertaking organized disease reporting, prompt laboratory diagnosis, quarantine, strict control of cattle movement, mass vaccination and slaughter policy. These measures brought down number of outbreaks to almost zero. However, the control measures could not be maintained for long and the disease appeared again along trade cattle routes through the elicit entry of migrating herds.

The JP 28 campaign started with vigour and enthusiasm but after some years of its establishment several factors militated against its success. These factors include the inadequate broader control, poor administration coupled with the poor economic situation of member countries.

In Nigeria, the campaign was launched by the Head of State in February 1974 but the campaign started in Northern States in October 1971 with vaccination season being October to June. The country was divided into Enzootic, Exposed and free areas for easy administration. The Enzootic area is made up of the former North Eastern State except Adamawa and Sarduna Provinces and Mambilla Plateau and Western Sokoto Province of North Western State. Kano, the former North Central and Benue Plateau States and Borgu Division of Kwara State formed the Exposed area. The rest of the country formed the free area. Right now there are no free zones because of the movement of cattle.

About 50 testing units were to be established and annual vaccination was to continue for about five years during the first phase. The intention was to reduce outbreaks in enzootic areas to below 5 percent. In free areas there should be compulsory slaughter of affected animals with adequate compensation. Outbreaks were to be followed immediately with quarantine, complement fixation testing and slaughter of clinical cases. All positive cases must be slaughtered and compensation paid. A general mass field testing was to follow the first phase.

Annual vaccination of Nigerian cattle continued since 1971. The data obtained from the Federal Livestock Department indicated that ten years after JP 28 programme started there had been irregular number of outbreaks but generally the outbreaks are on the decline.

Unfortunately, in 1984 outbreaks of the disease are on the increase again. The reasons for the increase in outbreaks include:-

- (1) The campaign was rapidly slowed down and vaccination is now less seriously handled.
- (2) The refusal of the Fulanis to vaccinate their cattle against the disease because of the reactions at the site of vaccination.
- (3) Neglect of CBPP vaccination due to the epizootic of rinderpest.

The cattle population in Nigeria has been estimated to be about 12 million. Therefore if the figures of vaccination are remarkably less than this, our seriousness to eradicate the disease is questionable.

Another Pan-African Campaign against CBPP and Rinderpest is under way. This is to boost the existing JP 28 Programme. In Nigeria a fresh campaign against the two diseases will be launched in December 1984. This is our chance to rid Nigeria of these two deadly diseases. Our neighbouring countries should be actively involved in the campaign. We should not take any chances during present efforts to control these diseases. There is no doubt that controlling these diseases will invariably increase the protein supply to the populace and improve our economy.

The production of enormous quantities of vaccine is not the solution to the disease problem. It is the effective application of the vaccine in the field that will make any disease control campaign meaningful. The duration of immunity conferred by vaccination against CBPP cannot safely be taken as more than one year, and chronic carriers (lungers) are the main source of infection. A campaign based on control of cattle movement against diagnosis quarantine and slaughter could lead to complete eradication of CBPP without the support of vaccination, while vaccinations alone would not bring about a satisfactory result. For this reason it will be necessary to use both vaccination and slaughter policy concurrently. Uniform international measure to control the movement of cattle should be introduced right from the beginning of the campaign.

A campaign against CBPP, however, will not become a success unless the diagnostic side to detect foci of infection is working well. Vaccination teams may be trained within a short time but diagnostic teams will require special training in order to get sufficient expertise. Perhaps inducement allowance will be necessary to make them function effectively in the campaign.

With the knowledge and experience available today it is feasible to carry out a thorough eradication campaign. However, it should be kept in mind that the success must be quick and complete.

Year	Number of Outbreaks	Total Animals Vaccinated	Number of doses of vaccine issued
1971/72	111	2,602,218	5,522,700
1972/73	47	2,500,672	9,784,800
1973/74	71	3,014,601	9,242,700
1974/75	35	2,911,246	10,418,246
1975/76	35	3,485,013	8,295,520
1976/77	15	3,200,000	10,544,600
1977/78	23	4,532,566	7,992,250
1978/79	15	5,246,988	10,794,190
1979/80	28	6,236,888	8,302,600

CSO: 5400/76

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

POULTRY DISEASE REPORTED--Meherpur, Dec 23: About 700 poultry birds died here of various diseases recently at villages Terail, Bamundi, Shalotaka and Mathmore under Gangni upazila. It is learnt that poultry diseases have broken out Meherput Sadar, Ballavpur and Ambhupe of the aforesaid upazila and the surrounding areas. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 25 Dec 84 p 2]

GAIBANDHA CATTLE DEATHS--Gaibandha, Jan. 3:--About 150 cattle heads died of the disease which broke out throughout the district. According to report the mouths and legs of cattle were affected when the disease attacked them and they could not eat. According to doctor there is no proper treatment of the disease which required only frequent washing of mouths and legs. Reports of the deaths of cattle, of which calves are worst victims are coming from different areas of the district. According to report 27 cattle heads died in Palashbari, 18 in Saghat 20 in Fulchari, 15 in Sadullapur 27 in Sundarganj and 25 in Gaibandha. The local Animal Husbandry source confirmed the report. [Text] [Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 4 Jan 85 p 7]

MORE CATTLE AND POULTRY DISEASES REPORTED--Napara, Jan 5: Cattle diseases have broken out in an epidemic form in Abhaynagar and Jessore upazilas under Jessore district during the past few days. It is learnt that a large number of cattle heads have already died and many more are going to follow suit as the poor farmer cannot get provide medical assistance. It may be mentioned here that the veterinary hospitals of these areas are running short of medicine. The Government has already taken up agricultural rehabilitation programme in the flood-affected areas. But no tangible efforts, unfortunately, are being made to save the cattle heads from the grip of diseases which are reportedly the after-effect of the floods. About 1500 poultry birds died here of various diseases recently at villages Pairahat, Taltala, Madhyapur, Shankarpasha, Mahakal, Dhopadi, Guakhola and the Sharkhola under Abhaynagar upazila. It is learnt from reliable sources that poultry diseases have broken out also in Jessore Sadar and Phultala upazilas in an epidemic form. It is further learnt that 1500 poultry died within 15 days in Alamnagar upazila alone. When contacted the veterinary officer of Abhaynagar upazila said the thousands of which are mostly affected. Poultry are coming daily to their office for treatment. But due to shortage of medicines they could not treat them properly. [Text] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 7 Jan 85 p 2]

INDIA

BRIEFS

ARMY MULES' ILLNESS--Lucknow, Jan 4 (PTI)--A disease that weakens and ultimately kills has started affecting mules maintained by the Indian Army, the Indian Science Congress in session here was told. The mules, deployed in hilly terrains at an altitude ranging between 3000 to 7000 feet, are used to carry provisions and items for men in the forward posts. Unknown about seven years ago, the disease "Pulmonary Emphysema," has been gradually assuming serious proportions, according to Dr S.S. Khera, B.S. Rathore and A.K. Mukhopadhyay of the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI) Izatnagar, Bareilly. The scientists have isolated certain disease-causing fungi in hay samples and revealed their presence with potential pathogenicity. However, no "aflotoxin" could be detected. Most of the hay samples had "moderate to heavy infestation" of old fungi including "Aspergillus Nidulans" and "Aspergillus Flavus." Most of the cases occurred in the age group of eleven years and above they told the Congress. The scientists said the occurrence of the disease was analysed in relation to incriminating factors like feeding of dusty and poor quality hay, strenuous job in the mountainous terrain, inadequate convalescence after primary respiratory illness and confinement industry environment. The adoption of corrective measures could bring down the incidence, the scientists added. [Text] [New Delhi PATRIOT in English 5 Jan 85 p 8]

CSO: 5450/0076

INDONESIA

BRIEFS

BUFFALO, COW DISEASE HITS SULAWESI--JAKARTA, Thurs:-Several cows and water buffaloes were suffering from anthrax disease now classified as rampant in Southeast Sulawesi (Celebes) province, the provincial Animal Husbandry Office said. The disease was first detected on Nov 28 when a cow about to be slaughtered died suddenly, a spokesman said. Another five cows and one water buffalo were found suffering from the disease in follow up investigations. The people have been warned to avoid consuming meat not stamped with a 'health label,' by the office. [Kuching THE BORNEO POST 4 Jan 85 p 3]

CSO: 5400/4344

IRELAND

BOYCOTT OF BOVINE TB ERADICATION PROGRAM THREATENED

Dublin IRISH INDEPENDENT in English 24 Jan 85 p 3

[Text] VETS are being offered a £10,000 pay increase for this year if they take part in the latest round of the TB eradication scheme—which to date has cost the country £1 billion—according to Department of Agriculture letters sent to 900 vets in an eleventh-hour attempt to halt a threatened boycott of the scheme.

Irish Veterinary Union leaders have claimed that Agriculture Minister Austin Deasy is trying to take "total control" of the profession by changing the nominating procedure in the testing of herds.

The IVU also claims that virtually all their members are against the scheme but the latest department letter — circulated yesterday — includes a voting form in which members are urged to state if they are willing to work the scheme.

The leaders of the main farm organisations have told the IVU to row in behind the new plan. The department also believes that younger vets and practices which for historical reasons are not included, should be allowed to participate.

But they have rejected a proposal put forward by the union at a meeting last week that these two groups could work on surplus tests.

Director of Veterinary Services, Mr. Gerry Cullen in his letter to vets asking them to put sectional interests aside and co-operate stressed "any veterinary surgeon who is prepared to undertake testing for TB and brucellosis can be fully engaged in such work to the extent that he or she is available".

Mr. Cullen pointed out in his direct correspondence with vets that the Department was providing £10.5 million in increased funds for this year's scheme.

About £9 million of this figure would go directly to the 900 vets — or an average £10,000 rise in salary this year.

The vets are adamant that if the Minister succeeds in getting the right of nomination transferred from farmers to department officials, it will undermine their practices and put them at the mercy of department whims.

However, Mr. Deasy has made it clear that he intends to either eradicate

cattle disease within three years or reduce it to below one per cent and insists that this will only happen if the possibility of favourite consideration by vets is excluded.

The Minister said he was prepared to compromise by allowing a practice to retain present herds but insisted that he should nominate the vet in the practice to do the work as well as put down a time limit.

However, the union points out that the Department is not willing to negotiate and have warned they will not co-operate with the new round due to begin next month.

CSO: 5440/035

KENYA

BRIEFS

FISH DEATHS CAUSE CONCERN--The death of a large number of fish in Lake Victoria for a reason not yet established is causing great concern among fishermen in Busia District. The Busia District executive committee has called for urgent investigations to establish the cause and measures taken to control the deaths. Speaking at a committee meeting held at the Busia County Council Hall, the area DC, Mr Daniel Omangi, said samples of the dead fish and water had been taken for laboratory analysis but results have not been returned to the district. He said people should stop speculating over the issue and cautioned fishermen against collecting dead fish for sale to the public. [Excerpt] [Nairobi DAILY NATION in English 18 Jan 85 p 8]

CSO: 5400/74

NEW ZEALAND

EDITORIAL HAILS ERADICATION OF BRUCELLOSIS

Christchurch THE PRESS in English 5 Jan 85 p 12

[Editorial: "Success Against Brucellosis"]

[Text] New Zealand's reduction, to fewer than 100, in the number of herds of cattle in which brucellosis is known or suspected to be present in a notable achievement in eradication of the disease. When the brucellosis control programme began only 13 years ago, about 14,000 cattle herds were known to be infected. At that time, eradication of the highly infectious disease seemed a very tall order. It now seems probable that New Zealand will be in the happy position of being declared officially free of the disease by 1989.

Eradication of the disease is important for several reasons, not least of which is the protection of overseas markets. Only the strictest controls have safeguarded markets so far, particularly at a time of increasing agricultural protectionism when any excuse, real or imagined, suffices to throw up the barriers. The dangers of brucellosis are real enough, however. It is readily transmitted to humans and is a debilitating sickness; it can spread quickly through cattle herds, causing an epidemic of abortions and severe economic loss to farmers.

For all these reasons, the programme of eradication has been pursued with a dedicated singleness of purpose. Regular testing of herds by Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries staff shows up any infected animals and these are promptly slaughtered. The entire herd from which an infected animal has been taken then becomes suspect until shown clear by two testings, six months apart, of the entire herd. While under suspicion, the herd is under M.A.F. restrictions on movement, sale, and slaughter. Thousands of beasts have been slaughtered as a result of their showing a positive reaction to the brucellosis test. Farmers received a measure of compensation from the Government for these animals.

The effort and expense have been worth it. The eradication of brucellosis would be sufficient reward. A bonus is that the success of the programme, since many veterinary regions are now free of the disease, further enhances New Zealand's reputation for animal hygiene and disease free primary production. The general public might be more aware of the spectre of foot-and-mouth disease. Success in removing brucellosis from cattle herds in this country is no less important to farming and the future of our agricultural exports than keeping New Zealand free on foot-and-mouth.

NIGERIA

BRIEFS

VACCINE PROCURED--The Gongola State government has procured 150,000 doses of tissue culture rinderpest vaccine (ITCRV) from the National Veterinary Research Institute, Vom near Jos, to forestall future rinderpest outbreak, the acting Commissioner for Information and Social Affairs, Mrs Christie Myada, said in Yola. Addressing newsmen on the activities of the government, Mrs Myada said that more than two million herds of cattle had been vaccinated so far. [Excerpt] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 14 Dec 84 p 9]

BORNO CATTLE VACCINATED--Borno State Commissioner for Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malam Mahmood Lawan has said that more than two million heads of cattle have been vaccinated against rinderpest in the state this year. Malam Lawan told a correspondent of the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in his office that to eradicate rinderpest, all cattle coming into the state from the neighbouring countries were being vaccinated at border posts. He said that only few isolated cases of rinderpest were being reported. (NAN) [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 25 Dec 84 p 16]

CATTLE DEATH STATISTICS--Nigeria loses cattle estimated at 300 million Naira to trypanosomiasis, the Chief Research Officer in the National Institute of Veterinary Research, Dr Dimka Nawathe, said on Tuesday in Vom near Jos. He told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that about 30 percent of the cattle bitten by tsetse flies were exposed to the disease which, he said, was rampant in riverine low altitude areas. Dr Nawathe said there was no record of outbreaks of the disease because it had not been regular among cattle. He said a research just carried out by the institute showed that there was an organism found in the atmosphere which was capable of controlling tsetse flies and the killer disease. [Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 3 Jan 85 p 16]

GONGOLA CATTLE DEATHS--More than 115,042 heads of cattle worth N57,521 died in Gongola State in 1983, the state Governor, Maj-Gen Muhammadu Jegu said in Yola on Tuesday. In a statement, Maj-Gen Jegu said that 2,830,304 heads of cattle were vaccinated last year which, he said, led to a 'drastic fall' in the death rate. He said that only 3,386 heads of cattle worth N1,693,000 died last year, and that the state government, in conjunction with the federal government, embarked on the massive vaccination of cattle

against rinderpest. Maj-Gen Jega said that the aim of the vaccination was "total elimination" of the disease and that adequate resources would be provided while a "buffer zone" between Nigeria and Cameroun would be created under the auspices of the food and agriculture organisation.
[Text] [Kaduna NEW NIGERIAN in English 10 Jan 85 p 9]

ABUJA CATTLE VACCINATIONS--More than 482,000 heads of cattle out of an estimated 1.5 million were vaccinated against rinderpest and contagious diseases last year in Abuja, Federal Capital Territory (FCT). This was disclosed by the head of veterinary division of Ministry of Federal Capital Territory (MFCT) Dr D.O. Umaru, while declaring open a one-day seminar on "Campaign against rinderpest in Abuja." He said out of 3,500 heads of cattle that were affected by the disease last year, 216 died during the period under review. Dr Umaru pointed out that the control of endemic animal diseases in the FCT could not be over-emphasised. [Excerpt]
[Lagos DAILY TIMES in English 21 Jan 85 p 24]

CSO: 5400/64

THAILAND

OUTBREAK OF FISH DISEASE REPORTED

Bangkok MATICHON in Thai 29 Nov 84 p 2

[Article: "People In Sukhothai and Udorn Thani Provinces Are Experiencing a Severe Outbreak of Fish Disease"]

[Text] There is a serious outbreak of fish disease in Sukhothai and Udorn Thani provinces. Fishermen have suffered losses, and villagers cannot buy fish.

A MATICHON reporter in Sukhothai Province reported that he was told by people in Si Samrong District, which borders Phichai District in Uttaradit Province and Phrom Phiram District in Phitsanulok Province, that many of the fish in the stagnant ponds have become diseased. The same thing happened in Kong Krailat District in Sukhothai Province last year. This has caused losses for the fishermen, and the smell is terrible. The reporter checked nearby areas in Phyamaen and Khluk Thiem subdistricts and in Thung Phak Kathin and found that fish there, mostly snakehead and eel, were diseased, too. The disease has the same characteristics of the disease that killed fish last year. The people are experiencing difficulties because of not having any fish to eat.

Fishing officials in Sukhothai Province said that they have taken urgent measures to prevent this disease from spreading. It is thought that the disease is caused by insecticides sprayed on the land. When water runs off [into the ponds], the insecticides get into the ponds. This poisons the fish in the ponds.

In Udorn Thani Province, at the first special conference of the Udorn Thani Provincial Council on the afternoon of 27 November, Mr Butsi Phuchaduk, a member of the Provincial Council from Nong Wua So District, said that there has been an outbreak of fish disease in Nong Wua So District. Fish in the various streams and canals in the district have developed sores.

Mr Phiu Saenphot, a member of the Provincial Council from Kumphawapi District, said that there is a serious outbreak of fish disease in this district, too. Mr Wira Serirat, the district officer in Kumphawapi District, said that outbreaks of fish disease have been common for several years now.

Members of the provincial councils from almost every district said that there are outbreaks of fish disease in their districts.

11943
CSO: 5400/4339

BANGLADESH

BRIEFS

PEST ATTACK REPORTED--Rapganj, Jan 3: Irri crops about 10,000 acres of land in Rupganj, Sonargaon, Araihazar and Demra have been attacked by a kind of insect locally known as Pamripoka. The worst affected areas are Barpa, Rupsi, Tarabo, Noapara, Chandpara, Kayetpara, Purbagram, Majeena, Nadipar Karagup and Gandarbapur. Meanwhile, the price of insecticides has shot up in local markets and most of the farmers cannot afford to buy these insecticides at this exorbitant price. Adulteration of insecticides also has reportedly become rampant here. [Excerpts] [Dhaka THE NEW NATION in English 6 Jan 85 p 2]

CSO: 5450/0074

INDIA

BRIEFS

APPLE TREE DISEASE--Madras, Jan 15--The scab disease that devastated apple crop in Himachal Pradesh in the last few years is now well under control and more than 90 percent of the affected trees has been revived in the State. "The economic scourge is almost extinct now," said Mrs Vidya Stokes, Himachal Pradesh Minister for Rural Development. Control measures were taken on a war-footing and the excellent cooperation of the farmers and timely availability of fungicides contributed a lot to the successful fight against the disease, she said. "In spite of the near total control, apple production was not very good last year, but we hope to get an excellent crop this year," she said. The low yields were partly due to drought and the after effects of the scab disease. [Excerpt] [Madras THE HINDU in English 16 Jan 85 p 12]

CSO: 5450/0078

VIETNAM

DEPARTMENT URGES COMBATING CROP PESTS

OW130837 Hanoi Domestic Service in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 11 Feb 85

[Text] According to the Vegetation Protection Department of the Ministry of Agriculture, leaf folders, stem borers, pachidiplosis oryzae, [assu nawn], and rice blast are currently ravaging rice seedlings and the winter-spring rice crop.

In the northern provinces, the degree of infestation by these harmful insects, which affect stalks and roots of rice seedlings and the early winter-spring rice crop, still remains high, averaging from 10 to 15 insects per square meter, and from 40 to 50 insects per square meter in high-level rice-fields.

Rice blast has appeared on more than 2,000 hectares of rice seedlings and winter-spring rice crop. Packets of rice blast have affected ricefields in Nghe Tinh Province.

Leaf folders have affected more than 50,000 hectares of rice in the Mekong Delta provinces and caused serious damage in the central provinces.

Pachidiplosis oryzae continues to ravage ricefields in Binh Tri Thien and a number of northern coastal and mountainous provinces.

Phytophthora infestans [beenh moocs suwowng] still affects vegetables and subsidiary crops, especially potatoes. Cirphis slebrossa [saau' cawns las] and rice lice [reepj] have ravaged corn and tobacco respectively.

Although the degree of damage is still low, we must pay great attention to preventing and eradicating crop pests.

It is forecast that rice blast will continue to spread widely and ravage the late winter-spring rice crop in the southern provinces and the spring rice seedlings and early planted spring rice in the northern provinces. Leaf folders and stem borers may develop vigorously and ravage the winter-spring rice crop in all localities.

It is recommended that all provinces and cities concentrate efforts on eradicating stem borers, leaf folders, and rice blast and on preventing the spreading of crop pests, especially rice blast, from the beginning of cultivation work.

VIETNAM

EFFORTS TO KEEP CROPS, STOCK FROM PESTS, DISEASE

OW121945 Hanoi VNA in English 1514 GMT 12 Feb 85

[Text] Hanoi, VNA, Feb 12--Vietnam's agricultural service is carrying out comprehensive measures to protect crops and cattle in face of the present shortage of materials and chemicals.

With regard to crops, all means available and insecticides made from local herbs are used, in combination with man power to stamp out crop diseases or pests within a short time after they occurred. A system of crop-protection has been set up with the participation of millions of people working under the guidance of technicians from central, provincial, district and grassroots levels.

At present, 40 cities and provinces and 80 percent of the country's 400 districts have set up organizations for plant protection. Many of them have signed contracts to this effect with agricultural cooperatives or peasant families.

Moreover, twenty plant-insurance companies are working well in many districts, the most outstanding of which are the plant-insurance companies of Kien An District, Haiphong, and Cailay District in the southern province of Kien Giang.

With regard to livestock breeding, for twenty years now, the two biggest epizootics, namely cattle-diarrhoea and foot-and-mouth disease which used to cause heavy damage to the cattle, have been eliminated. However, epizootic diseases sometimes still occur and kill a number of cattle and poultry.

In recent years, the number of pigs killed by epizootics accounted for 10 percent of the total herd, of cattle by from five to six percent, and poultry by almost 30 percent.

Thanks to the establishment of livestock-insurance companies and a wide network of livestock protection on the district level, the rate of pigs killed by epizootic diseases annually has dropped below five percent, and 80 percent of the herd of pigs have been immunized.

Livestock breeding is being intensified in all the three sectors: state-owned, collective and family.

CSO: 5400/4346

ZAMBIA

BRIEFS

ARMY WORMS INVADE KITWE--The Ministry of Agriculture and Water Development yesterday identified the caterpillars which invaded Kitwe early this week as the dreaded army worms. The spokesman for the Ministry said that the caterpillars have been identified and measures are being taken to control the situation. He said Shell Chemicals has assured the Ministry that there are enough stocks of chemicals throughout the country to combat the army worms adding that at present they are not so dangerous because there is a lot of greenery around. He said they only pose a danger when there is very little grass available so naturally they tend to attack crops. [Excerpt] [Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 17 Jan 85 p 1]

CSO: 5400/63

ZIMBABWE

ARMYWORM FEARED IN CHILIMANZI

Harare THE HERALD in English 12 Jan 85 p 1

[Text] THERE are unconfirmed reports of armyworm in the Chilimanzi area, according to Agritex officials in Mutare.

So far the pest has been confirmed in the Mzarabani communal lands in the Zambezi Valley and on a football field in the Mutare prison complex about 500 m from the main buildings.

The Ministry of Agriculture is confident that it can control any outbreak, the secretary, Cde Robbie Mupawose, said yesterday. Enough chemicals had been imported and adequate logistical arrangements had been made following the reports in East Africa.

Cde Mupawose said his ministry knew about the Kenyan outbreak for some time but had decided not to issue any statements until the armyworm larvae could endanger Zimbabwe.

Farmers should report outbreaks as quickly as possible to minimise damage as Agritex staff could not examine all fields constantly.

The ministry was looking at proposals to set up an integrated early warning system for the SADCC region, but the scheme would be expensive and so there were negotiations with donors in progress.

The head of the Plant Protection Research Institute, Dr Shadrack Mlambo, was in the Mzarabani area himself yesterday to see the efforts being made by the 6 000 families whose land has been infested and the successful battle they are waging with equipment and chemicals from Agritex.

CSO: 5400/70

ZIMBABWE

ARMYWORM ALERT BY AGRITEK

In Bulawayo

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 19 Jan 85 p 8

[Text] Four more reports of armyworms in Bulawayo have been received at the Agritex offices but all were not of the voracious species that grazed bare crops in Mashonaland recently.

Agritex officer for Matabeleland North Peter Paradza said the armyworm species found in North End, Malindela, Braeside and Kumalo were not dangerous to crops.

"The species is mostly found on lawns and is not of the voracious type capable of destroying crops," Cde Paradza said.

He described the presence of the armyworm in Bulawayo as "a freak outbreak which is not very serious."

No reports of armyworms had been received from communal areas but Agritex was keeping a close watch as crops were at this time at a stage of growth where they were vulnerable to armyworms.

"We are looking particularly in the northern areas for reports of the armyworm. We have large quantities of carbaryl stocked in Bulawayo and are ready to move in swiftly if we have reports of armyworms," Cde Paradza said.

"In Matabeleland North crops are particularly vulnerable because they were planted late. An outbreak of armyworm in the area could cause serious damage."

Cde Paradza urged farmers to keep their fields free of weeds, which could provide fodder for the armyworm and bring in even more to destroy crops.

He said armyworms were not difficult to identify because of their destructive effects on crops. Communal farmers could be helped, however, in identifying them by extension officers in their districts.

Maize crop and sorghum were generally about two weeks from tassling, at which stage they would not be vulnerable. If no armyworms were reported within the next two weeks the crops had a higher chance of surviving subsequent invasions, Cde Paradza said.

On the state of crops in the province Cde Paradza said in most areas crops seemed to be doing well. In other places, like southern Lupane where rains had been rather patchy, crops were at "a temporary writing stage."

"If we do not get rains within the next week or so in that area then the crops could be on permanent wilting point."

Cde Paradza said livestock in the province had fared well. "The situation is definitely better than last year," he said.

In Plumtree

Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 24 Jan 85 p 6

[Text] The destructive armyworm has struck again--this time in the Plumtree area. Preliminary indications show that the infestation may cover up to 64 square km.

However, Minister of Agriculture Denis Norman said he was confident the latest outbreak would be contained soon.

Already the Ministry's Department of Research and Specialist Services had taken necessary steps to eradicate the outbreak as it did in the Mzarabani area in the Zambezi Valley where the worm literally left bare nearly 100 square km within a few days.

Rural people are responding to education on conservation of natural resources and Government will soon buy 10 mobile units for extension education to boost the programme.

Answering a question raised by Mr Henry Elseworth (Ind Midlands), Minister of Natural Resources and Tourism, Victoria Chitepo said the progress being made on conservation was very rewarding and there were many examples of positive conservation action by the people in rural areas.

Zimbabwe's unemployment, problems can be overcome by the establishment of a socialist state because socialism "is the only doctor to this worldwide disease," said Government Chief Whip Nelson Muroyiwa.

Cde Muroyiwa said this while seconding a motion by ZANU(PF) MP for Mashonaland East Horace Nyazika calling on the Assembly to congratulate the Prime Minister on the outstanding performance of his Government since independence.

CSO: 5400/78

ZIMBABWE

FARMERS HAVE STALK BORER UNDER CONTROL

Harare THE HERALD in English 17 Jan 85 p 5

[Text]

ZIMBABWE'S commercial farmers have brought the outbreak of the maize eating pest, stalk borer, under control, a Commercial Farmers' Union official said yesterday.

Mr Richard Winkfield, a production and extension executive of the Commercial Grain Producers' Association, said that, unlike other pests, stalkborer appeared every year in the maize fields and farmers had long experience on how to control it before it destroyed much of their crop.

"The pest is very controllable, and it is reasonably under control in all commercial farms."

Mr Winkfield said he did not know the situation in the communal areas but added that the stalk borer should be eliminated immediately it

showed up otherwise there could be a great loss of crops.

In the latest issue of The Farmer, a CFU monthly publication, Mr Winkfield says snout beetle had been very prominent this season.

He says there were five species of the beetle that caused trouble and they had been a considerable nuisance in the Norton area where one field had been found with 10 percent infestation. The beetles were killed after spraying the field with chemicals.

Mr Winkfield warns that late or second generation stalk borer pests could be a problem in mature maize this year.

He says anything less than 5 percent infestation was not worth treating but anything over 5 percent could cause 25 percent loss in a tonne of

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ZIMBABWE

BRIEFS

ARMY WORM IN BULAWAYO--THE army worm has been reported in Bulawayo. A Bradfield resident Mr Goodwin Walsh, said he spotted the notorious worms in his garden this week. "We first saw many birds coming to our garden. When we sprayed insecticide on the lawn, hundreds of worms emerged," said Mr Walsh. The entomologist at the National Museum in Bulawayo, Mr David Hancock, identified the pest from Mr Walsh's garden as army work. Senior Agritex officials could not be contacted yesterday for comment. [Text] [Bulawayo THE CHRONICLE in English 17 Jan 85 pp 8, 9]

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